

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed January 2, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully noted. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for Two Month Extension of Time*, which extends the shortened statutory period for response to June 2, 2004. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on May 9, 2001, October 3, 2001, and September 22, 2003

Claims 28-54 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Claims 28-32 and 45-54 have been canceled, claims 35, 37-39 and 44 have been amended so that they depend from allowed independent claim 33, and new claims 55-60 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicants are entitled. The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 33 and 44 (page 5, Paper No. 12). Accordingly, claims 33-44 and 55-60 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 33, 55, 57 and 59 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

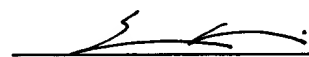
Paragraph 3 of the Official Action rejects claims 28, 37 and 38 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,646,288 to Yamazaki et al. In response, independent claim 28 has been canceled and dependent claims 37 and 38 have been amended to depend from allowed independent claim 33. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are in order and respectfully requested.

Paragraph 5 of the Official Action rejects claims 29, 39, 43 and 44 as obvious based on the combination of Yamazaki and U.S. Patent No. 6,323,836 to Shin. In response, independent claim 29 has been canceled and dependent claims 39, 43 and 44 have been amended to depend either directly or indirectly from allowed independent claim 33. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are in order and respectfully requested.

New claims 55-60 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicants are entitled. The new claims are specifically directed to the circuit configuration shown in Figure 5. The Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 55-60 read upon the elected Species 1, Figures 5 and 6, and are in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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